

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a voice communication within an e-mail communication comprising the steps of:

inserting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message sent from a sender at a sending node to a recipient at a receiving node, wherein said voice communications identifier includes information to indicate that a voice communications link can be established between the sending and receiving nodes;

embedding within said voice communications identifier an executable voice communications link program code, said program code configured to execute within said receiving node to establish a voice communications link for transmitting and receiving voice communications over a voice-based communications network between said sending node and said receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object;

transmitting said e-mail message to said recipient;

displaying a selectable symbol corresponding to the voice communications identifier in the e-mail message received at the recipient for establishing voice communications by the recipient; and

responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol, establishing said voice communications link between said sender and said recipient, wherein the executable code of the voice communications identifier performs steps at the receiving node for establishing voice communications with the sending node without utilizing an executable application from another server.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a reference to said sender of said e-mail message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol, executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol, determining a link address for said sender based on said reference, and executing said executable voice communications link program code at said receiving node in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a voice communication capability between the sending and receiving nodes; and selecting one of a Voice over IP link and a public switched telephone network link based on the determined capability.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said link address is at least one of a telephone number and an IP address.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said selectable symbol, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

10-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

extracting embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message, said embedded references being extracted from said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish said voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of :

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

21-44. (Cancelled).